

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, BR

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS

REF: (A) GENEVA 6039, (B) STATE 181899, (C) MONROVIA 5164,
(D) GENEVA 5771

1. I WAS ASKED BY MINISTER BAENA SOARES, CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO CALL ON HIM URGENTLY TODAY TO PERMIT HIM TO DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION IN THE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

2. BAENA SOARES' PITCH WAS THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ITS FEBRUARY-MARCH 1976 SESSION, THE GOB SAW NO REASON FOR FURTHER ADDRESS TO THE QUESTION. HE NOTED THE GOB'S STRONG FEELINGS AND SENSITIVITIES IN THIS AREA. HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAD PRESENTED ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS, THE PLAYING OF THE "SAME RECORD" COULD GO ON AND ON. HE OBSERVED THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY INAPPROPRIATE TO RE-ADDRESS THE QUESTION NOW

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WHEN, AS I KNEW, THE GOB WAS MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT. (BAENA SOARES

WAS REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS THERE HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION). IT WAS CLEAR THAT BAENA SOARES, WHO SAID HE WAS SPEAKING FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WANTED THE CONSIDERATION OF THE BRAZILIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS QUASHED, PREFERABLY IN THE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS ITSELF OR AS THE RESULT OF A RECOMMENDATION OF THE GROUP TO THE SUB-COMMISSION.

3. BAENA SOARES GAVE ME A PIECE OF PAPER, WHICH SAID THE FOLLOWING IN ESSENCE (INFORMAL TRANSLATION): THE HRC DECIDED, IN ITS FEBRUARY-MARCH SESSION, TO ENDORSE THE REPORT OF ITS GC TO THE EFFECT THAT NO FURTHER ACTION WAS NECESSARY WITH RESPECT TO THE DOSSIER PRESENTED CONCERNING BRAZIL. THAT DECISION WAS THE PRACTICAL EQUIVALENT OF (A) FILING THE DOSSIER; (B) ACCEPTANCE BY THE COMMISSION AND THEREFORE BY THE GC ITSELF OF THE GOB'S OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE MATTER; (C) RECOGNITION BY THE HRC AND THEREFORE BY THE GC ITSELF THAT THE GOB HAD AT ITS DISPOSAL ALL THE INDISPENSABLE MEANS TO PREVENT HR VIOLATIONS THAT MIGHT BE VERIFIED IN ITS TERRITORY AND TO ENABLE THE GOB TO APPLY THE LAW AND PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ABUSES THAT MIGHT OCCUR.

4. I GAVE BAENA SOARES THE SUBSTANCE OF REFS (B), (C), AND (D), NOTING AMBASSADOR CARTER'S ROLE AS AN EXPERT MEMBER SERVING IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY, HIS POSITION AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE THAT HE DOES NOT MEET WITH GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE PERIOD OF THE GC, HIS READINESS TO ACCEPT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXCHANGES WITH GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE MEETINGS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN AMBASSADOR CARTER'S POSITION. BAENA SOARES REPLIED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE GOB DID NOT SEE THE ROLE OF THE EXPERTS IN QUITE THE SAME LIGHT AS WE DID INASMUCH AS GOVERNMENTS SPONSORED EXPERTS AND SOUGHT SUPPORT FOR THEIR ELECTION, HE DID NOT WANT TO TAKE ISSUE WITH OUR POSITION.

5. I TOLD BAENA SOARES THAT I WOULD REPORT THE CONVERSATION AND HIS OBSERVATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT RPT THE DEPARTMENT. CRIMMINS

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